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HURRICANE IDA TRIGGERS FLOODING IN U.S., 14 DEAD

The remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped historic rain over New York City, New Jersey and Maryland, causing massive flooding

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN NY, NJ

A state of emergency was declared in New York City. A New York City police spokesperson said eight people died after they were trapped in flooded basements. Five deaths were reported from New Jersey. Initial reports suggested there could be multiple fatalities in in Philadelphia. Many flights and trains out of New York and New Jersey have been suspended

TRAVEL BAN IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY

- In New York City, a travel ban was issued directing all non-emergency vehicles to stay off the roads
- All New Jersey rail service was suspended, New Jersey Transit said. The storm had caused 57,519 power outages statewide, said Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey | PTI

230 kmph

THE SPEED AT WHICH HURRICANE IDA STRUCK MAINLAND U.S. ON SUNDAY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Double-jab must for mass gatherings

Highest single-day tally of fresh Covid-19 cases in over two months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A worried health ministry on Thursday said only those fully vaccinated can attend mass gatherings, if essential, as India recorded its highest single-day tally of fresh Covid cases in more than two months, largely due to the Kerala spike.

Of the Thursday morning's count of 47,092 new cases in the country, 32,803 came from Kerala alone, while Maharashtra was a distant second with 4,456. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said as against 279 districts that were reporting 100 new cases daily in June, the number of such districts came down to 42 as on August 30.

"Kerala is one state that has more than 1 lakh active cases and this number stands at nearly 2.3 lakh as of now. Four states have 10,000 to 1 lakh active cases — Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Rest of the states have less than 10,000 active cases," he said.

However, vaccination is peaking with an average of over 80 lakh daily jabs in the last week of August. V K Paul, member, health, Niti Aayog, said some states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had achieved very high rate of vaccinations on a few days last week, pushing the nationwide tally to over 1 crore.

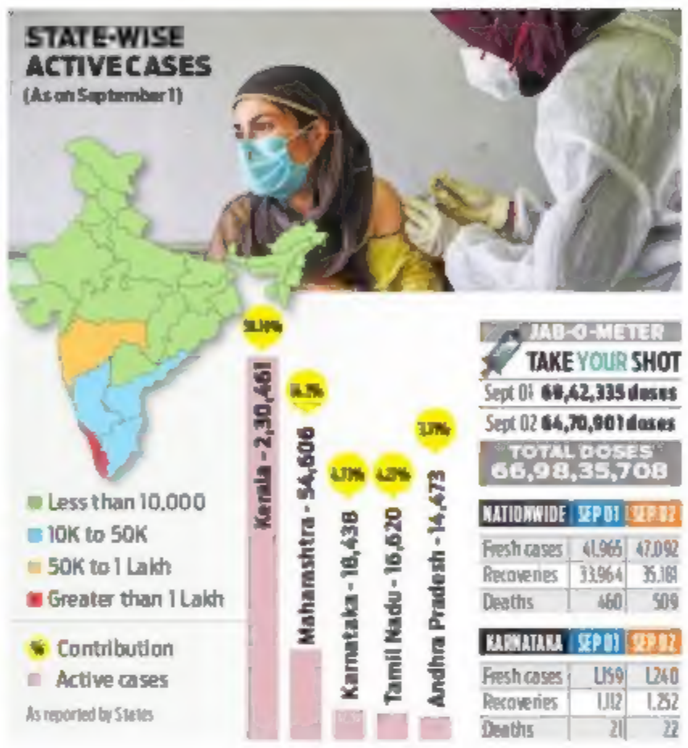
In all, 18.38 crore vaccine doses were administered in August, raising the average daily vaccination to 59.29 lakh doses, up from nearly 43 lakh in July. The government is hoping to take it to nearly 70-75 lakh every day in September when nearly 20-22 crore doses are projected to be available.

Figures shared by the ministry showed that 54% of the total adult population across the country has received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine while 16% of the them have been fully vaccinated.

Paul, however, warned against dropping caution during the upcoming festive season, adding despite the vaccination programme accelerating in the country, precautions must continue.

"The time has not yet come to remove masks," he warned.

"This year too, festivals will be celebrated in the same way as last year. We have to wait more for festivals to be celebrated traditionally," Paul said. He urged people to celebrate festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra and Eid within their families.



Bommai will lead K'taka poll charge in 2023, says Shah

6 SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Davanagere

IN a huge endorsement for Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday declared that the BJP will fight the 2023 Assembly election under the former's leadership, marking a generational shift in Karnataka politics for the party. He also expressed confidence that the BJP will return to power with a clear mandate.

While the party may be prepping to go to polls on Bommai's governance record, it will be banking on senior Lingayat leader B S Yediyurappa's standing in the community as a tall leader, to garner votes. For his part, Yediyurappa will take up a tour of the state come October, to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and galvanise the cadre.

Shah, who was in Davanagere to inaugurate the Police Public School, Gandhi Bhavan, police quarters and also the central library of GM Educational Institutions, lauded Bommai's acumen in administration and experience as a politician saying that it will strengthen the party's position in the state.

"The small but significant steps that Bommai took, like shedding VVIP culture, stopping the guard of honour, bringing transparency in administration, gifting of books, have made him a people-friendly CM and changed the image of the BJP in Karnataka," Shah noted.

Heaping praise on former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Shah said that he took Karnataka on a fast pace of development, which the incumbent CM, Basavaraj Bommai, has taken forward. This clearly demonstrates the BJP's pro-development agenda, he added. Yediyurappa himself decided to make way for a younger person to lead Karnataka and the BJP leadership decided to give the responsibility to Bommai, Shah said.

The Union Home Minister also said that he will hold discussions on internal security and other issues with the CM on a later visit. P4

ACTIVE CASES
K'TAKA FLATTENS THE CURVE

In a matter of just 100 days, the state has decreased its active Covid case count by 97 per cent, from 6,03,639 on May 17, to 18,386 on August 31. On Thursday, Bidar district was free of Covid-19, with no active cases | P3

Slump in industrial loans drags overall credit growth, shows RBI data

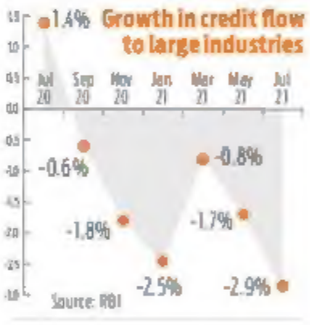
SESA SEN @ New Delhi

EVEN as India's economy is limping back to normalcy, industrial loans that account for 29.4% of non-food credit are dragging overall credit growth.

Latest RBI data show the industry segment grew just 1% in July 2021 driven by the MSME segment. MSME industries expanded 21.3% in July 2021 helped by the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme under which 2.14 lakh crore was disbursed.

However, growth in credit flow to large industries saw an unpleasant dip for 11 months in a row. The share of these industries makes up for 80.5% in the total outstanding credit to industry. The segment registered a 2.9% drop in July against 1.4% growth a year ago, underscoring a trend among firms to conserve cash, deleverage as much as possible and leave loan limits sanctioned by lenders underutilised.

The investment climate in general was not encouraging either. The key sectors that are deleveraging continuously include iron and steel, construction, cement and telecom. Of the total 19 industries, six saw a drop in credit outstanding. Run-down of exposure in a few sectors led to large industry credit consolidating ₹28 lakh crore for the past three years.



On the other hand, petroleum, rubber, plastic and nuclear fuels have been gaining credit momentum. Within the infrastructure segment, airports and roads registered a robust growth of 58.4% and 29.7%, respectively.

Analysts believe industry growth will have to emerge as a key driver to boost credit growth in the coming years. "While it may happen with some lag, revival in consumer demand and rise in government spending can be potential triggers," said analysts at ICICI Securities.

Delhi riots probe was just a waste of money, says court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Delhi Police's probe into the 2020 communal riots case was 'colossal wastage of the hard-earned money of taxpayers', a court here observed on Thursday while discharging former AAP councillor Tahil Hussain's brother Shah Alam.

"I am not able to restrain myself from observing that when history will look back at the worst communal riots since partition in Delhi, the failure of investigating agency to conduct proper investigation by using latest scientific methods will surely torment the sentinels of democracy," said Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav.

The court noted that there was no CCTV footage of the incident to confirm the presence of the accused at the spot, no independent eye witness, and no evidence regarding the criminal conspiracy.

"This court cannot permit such cases to meander mindlessly in the corridors of judicial system, sweeping away precious judicial time of this court when the same is open and shut case," the judge said.

The court noted that after investigating the matter for so long, the police presented only five witnesses – the victim, duty officer, formal witness, investigating officer, and a constable.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court has held that police cannot lodge five FIRs for the same incident and quashed four of them registered for the alleged offences of looting and setting on fire a compound during the north-east Delhi riots last year.

While maintaining one FIR, the HC quashed the other four lodged against the same accused in March last year at Jaffrabad Police Station and all the proceedings emanating therefrom.

TALIBAN
SET TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW GOVT IN AF

The Taliban are all set to announce the formation of a new government in Kabul on the lines of the Iranian leadership, with the group's top leader Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada as supreme authority | P11

EXPRESS READ

Actor Sidharth Shukla passes away at 40

MUMBAI: Popular television and film actor Sidharth Shukla died on Thursday. He was 40. Though some reports suggested a heart attack, the cause of his sudden death is not immediately clear.

WITH THIS ISSUE
CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE
INDULGE
36 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

ENGLAND VS INDIA

Spin in India side selection as Ashwin kept out of Oval office

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

EVEN as the whole team was enjoying a deserved break away from the bio-bubbles in June-July, Ravichandran Ashwin had taken to The Oval, to turn up for Surrey in a county match. He warmed up for the Test series against England with a seven-wicket haul.

You couldn't have asked more from a veteran of 413 Test wickets to his name. Preparation? Check. Fitness? Check. To say he was looking forward to this series, after masterminding a sensational series win in Australia, was an understatement.

Forty seven days have gone and as India came back to The Oval, all eyes were on whether Ashwin, who had been benched for the previous three Tests, would make a comeback. More so because the venue was The Oval, one where spinners have ruled the roost. Given England have three left-handers — batsmen Ashwin have for breakfast — in their top-order, it wasn't rocket science. Or so one thought. Playing Ashwin in place of Jadeja, who has just two wickets so far in the series, would have been an ideal move.

But, Ashwin continues to warm the bench and Jadeja continues to play, because India's middle-order is weak and playing the latter gives the team some depth in the middle-order. It might sound strange, but that is how desperate India are — in search of some extra runs, they are willing to sacrifice a spinner, who is known to be attacking and is at the peak of his career. The criticism on social media was hard to miss.

Treasuring the Past- Cherishing the Present
KSRTC
60 years of successful journey
commemorating many programmes
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
★ Chief Minister's Gold Medal Award for "Accident-Free" drivers of four corporations
★ Release of Kempegowda Bus Station's "Souvenir" for completing 50 years
★ Release of Postal Cover on the memory of 60 years
★ Free "Vidya Kalike" for staff / families and children of KSRTC - MOU has been signed between KSRTC & M/s. Infosys Limited
★ Launching of KSRTC & Infosys Digital Learning Website (2700 courses)
★ Inauguration of Employee Grievance Redressal Online System
Hon'ble Transport and Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister Sri B. Sriramulu presenting the appreciation certificate to the staff of the Transport Corporation for their excellent service.
Date: 3rd September 2021, Friday Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
Lighting of Lamp & Conferring of Gold Medal
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India
Sri M. Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India
Release of Postal Cover
Sri B. Sriramulu
Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Scheduled Tribes Welfare
Inauguration of Employee Grievance Redressal Online System
Sri Arabail Shivaram Hebbar
Hon'ble Minister for Labour
Sri B.C. Nagesh
Hon'ble Minister for Primary and Secondary Education & Sakala
Inauguration of Website
Sri Kota Srinivas Poojari
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare
Release of Souvenir
Sri M. Chandrappa
Hon'ble MLA, Holalkere & Chairman, KSRTC
Presided by
Sri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA Shivajinagar
August Presence
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Legislative Assembly
Sri Shivanagowda Rudragowda Patil
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Legislative Council
Sri R. Ashok
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT & BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development
Sri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Infrastructure Development
Sri S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation
Sri N. Nagaraju (MTB)
Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Small Scale Industries & Public Sector Industries
Sri B.A. Basavaraja (Byrati)
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development
Sri N. Munirathna
Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture & Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics
Sri K. Gopalaiah
Hon'ble Minister for Excise
Sri Rajkumar Patil Telkur
Hon'ble MLA, Sedam & Chairman, KKRTC
Sri N.S. Nandish Reddy
Hon'ble Chairman BMTC
Sri V.S. Patil
Hon'ble Chairman, NWKRTC
Sri S.N. Eshwarappa
Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, KSRTC
Sri M.R. Venkatesh
Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, BMTC
Dr. Basavaraj S. Kelagar
Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NWKRTC
Sri Aarundi Nagaraja
Hon'ble Director, KSRTC
Sri P. Rudresh
Hon'ble Director, KSRTC
Sri Raju Vittalasa Jarataraghara
Hon'ble Director, KSRTC
All the Hon'ble members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLA's, MLC's, Chairman's & Directors of Boards and Corporations and Elected Representatives
All are Welcome
Rajender Kumar Kataria, IAS
Principal Secretary to Govt., Transport Department
Shivayogi C. Kalasad, IAS
Managing Director, KSRTC
Dr. Reju M.T., IAS
Managing Director, BMTC
Gurudatta Hegde, IAS
Managing Director, NWKRTC
Managing Director
KKRTC
Management and Staff of all Karnataka State Road Transport Corporations
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Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation
North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
DIPR/KSRTC/78/2021-22